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From the President: At the Intersection of Mission and Service

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AT THE INTERSECTION OF MISSION AND SERVICE



Last fall, DePaul and Sinai Chicago announced the creation of a community-driven, applied research institute to address health inequities in Chicago. For years, DePaul has partnered with Sinai Chicago to train the next generation of health care providers. This latest extension of our collaboration comes at an especially critical time, as the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the magnitude of health inequities that have existed for many years in the United States.

Through this joint research institute, DePaul faculty and Sinai researchers are working together to develop and implement clinical and community programs. From pursuing joint grants to co-authoring books, the collaboration is fostering numerous opportunities for our institutions to share expertise. Ultimately, the institute will engage community members, leaders and organizations to determine the most effective solutions to address social and health equity challenges.

In addition to the research institute, DePaul and Sinai launched a new fellowship program in April 2020. The program enables faculty to better understand health disparities and improve health equity by translating research into action. Fellows have the opportunity to experience Sinai Urban Health Institute's unique, community-focused research center, which uses a transdisciplinary approach. The first cohort, consisting of four DePaul faculty, researched disparities in diabetes, stroke, influenza and pneumonia deaths, as well as premature mortality.

Looking ahead to this fall, we're very excited for the publication of "Unequal Cities: Structural Racism and the Death Gap in America's Largest Cities," a book co-edited by DePaul Professor of Sociology Fernando De Maio and Maureen Benjamins, senior research fellow at Sinai Urban Health Institute.

DePaul's partnership with Sinai Chicago is truly at the intersection of mission and service. We are two distinctly Chicago institutions, and our work together is closely tied to DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian and urban roots. I'm grateful to Sinai for our partnership and the dedication of our faculty to address equity and social justice.

This issue of DePaul Magazine brings additional examples of how our community members are contributing to public health and service. From eradicating street homelessness to closing racial inequity gaps in health care with digital technology, I invite you to read about the many ways DePaul is making a difference in Chicago and beyond.

Collaborating with organizations and institutions across Chicago and around the globe to help those in need has indeed been one of the many blessings of serving as DePaul's president these past four years. By the time you receive this publication, I will have announced my decision to step down as DePaul's president effective June 30, 2022.

After much prayer and reflection, I discerned now is the time for me to shift my focus and energy to my personal and familial journey. I shared this decision with the university community on June 14, and I would like to emphasize here, again, what an honor it has been to work with our many alumni and friends to bring our Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission to life every day. Thank you for all that you do for DePaul.

A. Gabriel Esteban

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President